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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of:

ARRL request for ruling on  
Good Amateur Practices

RM-9259

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Comments from:

Name Alan Rutz  
Amateur Callsign WA9GKA  
Address 7102 W. 500 S.  
City, State, Zip La Porte, IN, 46350

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The American Radio Relay League has asked you to effectively modify existing rules to strengthen the ARRL political position for the enforcement of what the ARRL decides is "good Amateur Practice".

I am strongly opposed to this request, and I am hopeful the FCC will decide it is not in the best interest of either the Public or the Amateur Radio Service to take any action in this particular matter.

If the FCC should decide to strengthen the ARRL in further defining the meaning of "good Amateur Practice", it will simply be allowing the ARRL to choose frequency coordinators, impose coordination fees, charge arbitration fees, and more easily raise their profit by extending their "services" to Hams in any other way they can find. The only reasons for this request by the ARRL are money, money, money.

As an ordinary Amateur Operator, I hear many of the stories about the politics of Ham Radio, and one of the many constant arguments surrounding Ham Radio involves the effectiveness of the voluntary groups known as Frequency Coordinators. Our old-guard Indiana coordinator is a good example:

As long ago as 1977, when my Ham interests were stronger in VHF-UHF Repeaters, I myself ran into a blazing wall of total indifference when dealing with either the Illinois or the Indiana Frequency Coordinators, and the particular problem our local ham club was experiencing was simply ignored, and was never properly resolved. It was left to become a war of attrition, as two clubs battled to maintain sovereignty over a frequency pair, and the problem was finally solved about 18 years later (in 1995) when one of the clubs' decided to "find another frequency".....never once did the old-guard Indiana coordinator give any assistance.

But, seeing many similar problems, a group of really dedicated Hams here in Indiana started an organization in 1996 they call "MISMA" or Midwest Spectrum Management Alliance, Inc. and things have really improved here in our State of Indiana! Such innovation and competition should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Bear in mind, I do not own a Repeater. I only use them, and I am so tired of the squabble I once went through in 1977 that I try not to even involve myself in the bickering and discussions that never seem to be resolved. But, I can say that belonging to MISMA and watching what those guys are doing is the closest thing I have seen to perfection in Frequency Coordination! It's too bad that Commercial Coordination doesn't come to the level already reached by MISMA. If Merrill See had ever been a member of MISMA, things might have turned out differently for SIRSA in the commercial sector!

MISMA uses a logical, well-planned computer program and plenty of common-sense to help find new repeater owners a place to

experiment. I imagine the FCC is fairly happy with the concept that Amateur Repeaters do allow for emergency response. It's MISMA, and not the older Indiana Coordination Committee that is making this effort better instead of guarding frequencies for dead buddies and old friends.....it's MISMA and not the ARRL that realizes that Ham Radio already needs new kinds of modulation such as CDMA, and is keeping the door open for experimentation of every wide-band modulation. One of the thrusts of the ARRL/BOM/SPOC concept is to eliminate all wide-band operation of any sort wherever they think it is "not in good Amateur Practice".....

Years ago, you couldn't begin to interest the ARRL in VHF, let alone UHF two-way communication, even though the Heath Company and others had already pioneered their lunch-box portable radios and many Hams were enjoying AM modulation. The early FM'ers of the 50's and the 60's actually had to battle the ARRL for much recognition, let alone any real support, from the Headquarters that is supposed to lead Hams on to better things. Dare we mention the fact that the ARRL's QST magazine even stopped any coverage of microwaves in their entirety for many years, only recently re-discovering that some Hams are using them!

I happen to have viewed a copy of video tapes recorded at both the infamous Kansas City Big-old-Meeting with Ralph Haller, and also another video made at a hideous example of the Indiana Repeater Council a couple of years ago. To me, it seems that the good-old-boy network is alive and well, and that if the FCC somehow allows this request of the ARRL to take root, we can expect to see even more of the same.

Please do not fix something that is not broken!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Rutz", written over a horizontal line.

Alan Rutz, WA9GKA